421 economy, their household furniture and utensils and articles of personal use and convenience, as well as the right of inheritance of personal property of citizens, is protected by law.

185 471 Art. 11. The economic life of the Belorussian SSR is determined and directed by the State national economic plan with the aim of increasing the public wealth, of steadily improving the material conditions of the working people and raising their cultural level, of strengthening the Belorussian SSR, and of consolidating the independence of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and strengthening its defensive capacity.

461 Art. 12. In the Belorussian SSR work is a duty and matter of honour for every able-bodied citizen, in accordance with the principle: "He who does not work, neither shall he eat."

The principle applied in the Belorussian SSR is that of socialism: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work."

Chapter II. The State Structure

631 Art. 13. For the purpose of mutual assistance among the Union Republics along economic and political lines, as well as along the line of defence, the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic voluntarily united with the other equal Soviet Socialist Republics, namely:

The Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic,
The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic and
The Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic

in a federal state, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Proceeding from the aforesaid, the Belorussian SSR ensures to the USSR, as represented by its higher organs of state power and organs of state administration, the rights defined in Article 14 of the Constitution of the USSR.

Outside of the spheres set forth in Article 14 of the Constitution of the USSR, the Belorussian SSR exercises state authority independently, retaining its sovereign rights in full.

Art. 14. The Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic consists of the Baranovichi, Bobruisk, Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Minsk, Mogilew, Molodechno, Pinsk, Polessye and Polotsk Regions.

642 Art. 15. The Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic reserves the right freely to secede from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Art. 16. The territory of the Belorussian SSR may not be altered without its consent.

of the Byelorussian diet came from UNRRA sources. Meat supplies from domestic production were almost nil; fats and oils also were critically short; and little sugar was available, the Byelorussian sugar industry having been completely smashed.

Spring 1946: The Outlook

In Byelorussia, 1946 was expected to be a great year for recovery. The new Five Year Plan had just been adopted; UNRRA assistance was getting into full swing; and the relief supplies were filling a wide gap. The food situation was poor but, thanks to UNRRA help, not desperate. Material progress was being made; destroyed houses were being rebuilt, and farming and industry slowly restored.

The following sections of this report will try to tell a little of the story of Byelorussia before the war; indicate the damage inflicted by the German invaders and consider Byelorussian reconstruction as it progresses today.

Long Term Rehabilitation Plans

On March 18, 1946, the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. adopted a series of measures for the long-term rehabilitation of the Soviet Union. Incorporated in the fourth Five Year Plan (1946-1950), these measures were designed to rehabilitate the devastated regions of the country, to recover the pre-war level in industry and agriculture, and then considerably to surpass that level.

Included in the Plan are provisions for capital investments in the Byelorussian Republic of 6,950 million roubles in 1946-50;[1] of this 2,422 million roubles are to be spent for works under the jurisdiction of the Republic. While small in comparison to the 75,000 million roubles estimated war damage suffered by the B.S.S.R., this volume of capital investments is greater than the combined expenditures of 5,741 million made during the three pre-war Five Year Plans, (1928-42). Although some allowance must be made for the lower value of the rouble, the physical goals themselves are also greater.

The new plan contemplates great expansion, but no marked changes in the direction of Byelorussian economic development. Agricultural production is to be revived; and by 1950 the crop area is to be 5,300,000 hectares. Industrial plans for 1946-50 are largely centered in the development of electric power, and peat, brick and other building materials, all of which were well established before the war. One significant trend is toward the construction of more hydro-electric stations, which in 1950 will produce 12 per cent. of the total power,

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[1] Capital investments for the whole Soviet Union in 1946-50 are fixed at 250,300 million roubles.

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• 185 as compared to 1.6 per cent. in 1940. Peat briquette plants, pre-fabricated housing manufacture, and food processing plants are also to be launched. Except for the planned construction of factories to produce tractors and motor trucks - and these will be assembly plants rather than manufacturing ones - no heavy industry is to be established. The production of agricultural machinery will be a new feature in Byelorussian industry.

Also in the five year period, the major cities of Byelorussia are to be restored - particularly Minsk, Vitebsk, Gomel, Mogilev, Bobruisk, Orsha, and Borisov. In all seven of these cities peat plants are to be rebuilt, and in most of them, brick plants and other industries such as porcelain works, clothing factories, tanneries, food processing plants, match factories, and agricultural machinery plants. Municipal and cultural services are to be restored, and housing is to be replaced. In the towns of the B.S.S.R. as a whole, 2.7 million square metres of state-owned housing space are to be made available for occupancy in the period 1946-50, including 650,000 square metres to be furnished by local soviets. An additional 1.5 million square metres are to be constructed by individual home owners assisted by the state loans.

In the sphere of cultural development, the number of schools in the B.S.S.R. in 1950 is scheduled to be 11,375, with an attendance of 1.5 million. The number of hospital beds is to reach 30,000.

Considerable industrial expansion is also planned for the western regions of Byelorussia. According to the plan, these regions are to contribute about one-fourth of the Republic's total industrial output in 1950.

Among the new industries scheduled for construction in the western area is a sugar refinery of 6,000 tons annual capacity in 1950. Other food processing factories are to be built, as well as a number of textile and clothing factories. Electric power stations are to be restored and new ones built, including hydro-electric stations. These are a major need in the western regions, which in 1938 had power facilities that supplied only 0.5 per cent. of the electricity in pre-war Poland, and were undeveloped in comparison with the Soviet Byelorussia.

433 supply is greatly dependent upon recovery in grain production. So long as the grain supply barely meets the needs for bread, very little will be used for hogs and cattle. To regain the pre-war production level of fats will require at least three to five years.

185 231 The Five Year Plan, 1946-50, provides that 17 meat packing plants, 10 poultry farms, 11 urban milk-processing plants, two milk canneries, and 150 dairies be restored or built in the B.S.S.R. As at December 1946 the Minister of Agriculture reported that 26,000 livestock farms were again functioning on collectives. These farms are looked to as the source of an estimated 35,000 tons of butter and cheese products in 1947.

Following is a table which shows the numbers of livestock in the B.S.S.R. in 1950, as fixed by the Five Year Plan.

TABLE VII

B.S.S.R.: Livestock Numbers in 1950 (Planned)

	Total	Including on collective farms
Horses	770,000	330,000
Cattle	2,860,000	852,000
Pigs	2,600,000	300,000
Sheep and goats	2,900,000	600,000

231 Source: The Five Year Plan, 1946-50.

It will be noted that the proportion of livestock held on the collectives is not great, except in the case of horses, which are regarded as means of production and are therefore not allowed in private ownership. A comparison of the preceding figures with those in Table VI shows how heavily the war has reduced the numbers. It is particularly important to note that the number of horses for 1950 is fixed far below the pre-war number existing in Byelorussia after the incorporation of the Western region. As has already been seen, the lack of these animals is the more seriously felt because of the limited number of tractors available.

Improvement of the Collective Farm Organization

731 Despite the major difficulties, Byelorussian farmers in 1946 made considerable progress toward regaining the ground lost during the war. In this respect, they were more fortunate than those in other areas of the Soviet Union, to whom 1946 brought disaster. From Moldavia to the Urals, south to the Kuban and north to Moscow, crops were ruined by the worst drought since 1891. Particularly stricken was the Ukraine, which before the war supplied one-fifth of the grain for the entire U.S.S.R.

731 This natural catastrophe, in addition to all the other burdens of post-war recovery, has necessitated even greater efforts by the farmers to overcome handicaps and to boost production as high as their hardest labours will allow.

474 The Soviet Government has, since the drought,[1] taken additional steps to eliminate difficulties and to strengthen the collective farm management. On September 19, 1946, the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. issued a decree calling for the elimination of abuses of the collective farm charter. [647] A Collective Farm Council was created, the main tasks of which are to establish "strict control over the observation of collective farm statutes"; to guard the collective farm property against embezzlement or misuse; and to ensure greater participation in the farm management by the workers themselves.

Under the new regulations of September 1946, all lands illegally taken from the collectives are being restored. Sovietskaya Byelorussia reported: "More than 31,000 hectares of land... have been returned to the collective farms (in Byelorussia)." Unauthorized personnel are being taken off the payrolls; administrative staff is being reduced; and the collective farmers are taking greater part in the administration of the kolkhoz. General meetings are called regularly, and management and auditing committees elected by the membership are responsible for reporting back to the membership. "The democratic procedure of convening general meetings for discussion of and decision on vitally important questions... is now being returned."[1]

Planned Increases in Agricultural Production

185 433 According to the Five Year Plan, 1946-50, the crop area of the B.S.S.R. in 1950 is to reach 5.3 million hectares, including 3.2 million hectares under grain, 344,000 hectares under industrial crops, 1.06 million under potatoes, vegetables, and fruit, and 690,000 hectares under fodder crops.

Average yields of all crops are expected to be as follows: grain, 1.03 metric tons per hectare; potatoes, 14.5 tons per hectare; and flax, 0.3 tons per hectare. These are somewhat lower than the yields fixed for the Soviet Union as a whole because of the relatively poor quality of the soil in Byelorussia: for example, in the B.S.S.R. in 1950 the average yield of grain is to be 1.2 metric tons per hectare, while that of flax is put at 0.4 tons per hectare.

According to the Moscow periodical, Slavyane (1946, II-III, pp.32-35), the B.S.S.R.'s total production of grain in 1950 will represent an increase of 10 per cent. over 1940. On this basis, the 1940 grain harvest must have been between 2.7 and 3 million tons. In the U.S.S.R. the 1940

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1 Sovietskaya Byelorussia, Minsk, December 20, 1946.

1 [in 1946--Analyst]

185 433 grain crop amounted to 119 million tons, and the target for 1950 is set at 127 million metric tons. Production of potatoes in Byelorussia is to increase by 6 per cent., and of flax by 31 percent.

Fishing

226 Before the war fishing was an important source of food supply in Byelorussia, where the many inland lakes and streams abound in pike, perch, bass, sandre, bream, and other fresh-water fish. Osweia Lake, a body of water about 3,500 acres in extent, produced some 500 tons of fish annually, when 50 men were engaged in year-round fishing. At that time the fishing collective at the lake employed nets measuring almost a mile in overall length; but today very little fishing is being done for lack of nets and other equiptment. Osweia is not an isolated example.

[127] An extensive system of fish culture, including the stocking of fish and the addition of chemical fertilizers to assist plant growth in the lakes, was destroyed during the war. The Germans depleted available fish resources by discharging explosives under water to bring the stunned fish to the surface. Many young fish were exterminated by this method of explosive fishing, without regard to conservation. At present the system of fish culture in Byelorussia is being slowly reinstituted, but is handicapped by the lack of nets. UNRRA shipments of fishing gear have, however, contributed valuable assistance in this regard.

The new Five Year Plan provides that "by 1948, pond culture will be restored to pre-war proportions."

The fish catch in 1950 is expected to be 5,200 tons.

727 when visited by UNRRA Mission observers, Brest was found to be about 50 percent. destroyed, and with a population estimated at 35 to 40 thousand, making it no more than the sixth city in size in the B.S.S.R. Baranovichi, also visited by UNRRA observers in August 1946, was found half demolished and with a population of 20,000. The municipal economy had been so little developed in Baranovichi that the Oblast Soviet Chairman, speaking before the Byelorussian Supreme Soviet as a Deputy in September 1946, asked that five million roubles be allocated in the Five Year Plan for the construction of a water works and sewer system in the city.

438 • 185 During the Five Year Plan, 1946-50, considerable industrial expansion is planned for the western oblasts. If the Plan is fulfilled, they will contribute about one-fourth of the Republic's total industrial output in 1950.

Among the new industries scheduled for construction in the western areas is a sugar refinery of 6,000 tons annual capacity, to be located in the Grodno oblast. In the city of Grodno will be built a woollen cloth factory which, together with a new factory to be constructed in Minsk, will produce 1.6 million metres of woollens in 1950. At Lida in Baranovichi oblast is to be founded a rubber shoe-sole factory which by 1950 is to produce half the requirements of the B.S.S.R.'s shoe industry. A sheepskin overcoat factory is to be built at Pinsk. New bread factories are to be put in operation in Grodno, Brest, and Pinsk; a food concentrates plant will be built at Lida; and the meat-packing plant at Baranovichi is scheduled for restoration.

377 185 Electric power stations are to be restored in Grodno and Brest, while new ones will be built in Baranovichi, Lida, Pinsk, and Molodechno. Hydro-electric stations will be constructed also, among them a station on the Shar river at Slonim and a larger station of 7,000 kilowatts at the Vileia waterfall in Molodechno oblast. As has been stated earlier, electric power facilities are a major need in the western oblasts, which in 1938 supplied only 0.5 per cent. of the electricity in pre-war Poland.

508 Also to be built at Brest is one of the Republic's three largest airports; the other two to be in Gomel and Minsk.

German Destruction of Industry

727 The destruction of Byelorussian industry by the Germans during the war was savage, systematic, and complete. At the Minsk trial of war criminals in January 1946 it was charged that the Germans had demolished or transferred to Germany the buildings and equipment of 10,338 of the B.S.S.R.'s industrial enterprises. The methods employed for this destruction were identical throughout the Republic.

In Minsk, for example, the industrial enterprises had been turned over to four or five German firms (Borman, Schorowa Werk, Trebotz, Schlachthof, and Trol), which carried off to Germany or to German-occupied territories, all the equipment and machinery which was of any

433 manufacturing linen from scraps. The aluminum factory in Borisov was making utensils, but the material available, all of which was supplied by UNRRA, was sufficient for only a small output.

Labour

464 As has already been noted, there is a shortage of all categories of workers. The outstanding characteristic of the present force is the high percentage of women and youthful workers. In the factories observed by the UNRRA Mission, from 75 to 90 per cent. of the workers were women and young people. Many of these are being trained in special schools.

The Five Year Plan in Industry

471 Under the new Five Year Plan for the rehabilitation of the Soviet economy, the volume of capital investments in the B.S.S.R. in 1946-50 is to be 6,950 million roubles, including 2,422 million for works under the Republic's jurisdiction. In the Soviet Union as a whole, capital investments for the same period are to amount to 250,300 million roubles, of which 157,500 million are to be used in industry.

433 185 The volume of production of Soviet industry in 1950 (the last year of the five year period) is fixed at 205,000 million roubles (in 1926-27 prices), an increase of 48 per cent. as compared with the 1940 output of 138,500 million roubles.

In Byelorussia, the volume of industrial goods produced by the Republic in 1950 is to exceed pre-war output by 16 per cent. The enterprises under the Republic's jurisdiction are to produce goods valued at 2,200 million, of which the output of state industries under local jurisdiction and of industrial co-operatives is to comprise 850 million roubles. The following table shows the physical goals fixed for Byelorussian industry under the Plan.

TABLE IX

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B.S.S.R.: 1950 Planned Industrial Output Compared with U.S.S.R. Total

	Byelorussian Republic	Soviet Union total
Electric power (kilowatts)	650,000,000	82,000,000,000
Peat (tons)	4,162,000	44,300,000
Metal-working machines (units)	4,325	74,000
Tractors (units)	5,000	112,000[1]
Cement (tons)	320,000	10,500,000
Window glass (square metres)	5,000,000	80,000,000
Felled timber (cubic ")	11,100,000	280,000,000
Dressed lumber (cubic metres)	1,800,000	39,000,000
Matches (thousand boxes)	1,550,000	n.a.
Meat (tons)	46,000	1,300,000
Butter (tons)	10,000	275,000
Fish catch (tons)	5,200	2,200,000
Alcohol (decalitres)	7,600,000	100,800,000

1 Tractor production:

Russian S.F.S.R.	82,000
Ukraine S.S.R.	25,000
Byelorussian S.S.R.	5,000
Total	112,000

Source: The Five Year Plan, 1946-50.

The post-war Five Year Plan is a programme encompassing both reconstruction and new construction. Its aim is not only to restore war devastated industry, but to exceed pre-war production. Some indication of the expansion involved may be obtained from a comparison between Table IX and the following table, which shows the pre-war output of certain products for Byelorussia compared with the output of the Soviet Union as a whole. The figures given refer, of course, to the former boundaries of the Byelorussian Republic.

TABLE X

Output of Certain Products in the B.S.S.R., 1932, and Planned Output for 1937
(metric tons)

	Byelorussian Republic		Percentage of total U.S.S.R. output	
	1932	Planned for 1937	1932	Planned for 1937
Peat	800,000	2,100,000	6.06	8.47
Cement	n.a.	110,000		1.57
Meat	12,300	28,800	2.83	2.30

Source: Second Five Year Plan, Moscow, 1934, Vol. II, p.498.

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433 Compared with 1940, the capacity of Byelorussian electric power stations in 1950 is to increase by 220 per cent.; peat production is to rise 127 per cent. above the 1940 output; the output of bricks and lime is to increase fourfold; and the production of tile is slated to be about nine times over 1940.

Among the twelve oblasts in the Republic, Minsk oblast is scheduled for the greatest industrial expansion. In the construction programme are new factories for the output of cloth, penicillin, Delft-ware, porcelain, peat briquettes, boilers, radiators, instruments, bicycles, motor trucks, and tractors. The 1950 output for the last three factories is to be 100,000 bicycles, 1,000 7-ton trucks and 5,000 tractors. In the city and environs of Minsk alone capital investments are scheduled at the rate of nearly one million roubles a day during the course of the five years.

Another area in which large developments are projected is Gomel oblast, which in 1950 is to produce 787,000 tons of peat, 90 million bricks and tiles, and five million square metres of window glass. (In 1928 the total Byelorussian output of window glass was estimated at 1,170,000 square metres.)

Forestry

137 According to the census of January 1, 1935, the forest area of the B.S.S.R. was 3,817,000 hectares, 22.9 per cent. of the area of the Republic, and 0.6 per cent. of the total forest area of the Soviet Union. Another 2,538,000 hectares were added to the B.S.S.R.'s forest area in 1939, when West Byelorussia was rejoined to the Soviet Union.

Timber

313 The production of commercial timber, largely pine, fir and oak, has been centred in the areas of Bobruisk, Mozyr, Borisov, and Polotsk. Timber is considered one of the most valuable of Byelorussia's natural resources, and has figured largely in her relatively insignificant export trade. In 1926-27, for example, an income of 20 million roubles was realized from export of timber, at a time when the Republic's budget totalled 80 million roubles, and the gross output of industry was valued at 133 million roubles. In 1924-25, the only year for which details on the export of timber are available, the timber shipped from the B.S.S.R. amounted to 587,000 cubic metres of firewood and 749,000 cubic metres of other timber. About 60 per cent. of this was sent to the Ukraine (within the U.S.S.R.) and the remainder, plywood, oak, pine, and other products, was shipped abroad via the Baltic States.

The advanced development of the timber industry in the B.S.S.R. is revealed by the number of sawing frames which the Republic had in prewar years. As at April 1, 1939, (before the incorporation of Western Byelorussia) the B.S.S.R. possessed 256 of the Soviet Union's 6,500 frames.

313 This high proportion should be contrasted with the small forest area of this Republic in relation to that of the whole U.S.S.R.

185 313 433 The goal set for timber deliveries by the B.S.S.R. in 1950 is 11,100,000 cubic metres; and cuttings during the period 1946-50 are planned at 58,400,000 cubic metres. The aggregate timber deliveries attained during four and one-quarter years of the first Five Year Plan, 1928-32, amounted to 32,600,000 cubic metres, or 7,670,000 annually. In 1928 it had been estimated that the timber resources of the B.S.S.R. were adequate to permit cuttings of 12 million cubic metres a year by 1932. This scale of cuttings was never reached, but the figure is mentioned here because it approximates the present plan of annual deliveries set for 1950, at a time when the area of Byelorussia is about double what it was in 1928.

The reason for this is that a large amount of easily accessible timber was burned out by the Germans during the war. The Governor of Vitebsk oblast, quoting from official figures, told members of the UNRRA Mission in June 1946 that 22 per cent. of the oblast was covered by good timber before the war but at present only 16 per cent. It was estimated by the Governor of Polotsk oblast that 46 percent. of the forests of the oblast were cut, burned or taken away during the war. Post-war cutting operations will therefore be restricted in many areas, and a reforestation programme will be carried out on an area of 189,000 hectares. Meanwhile, felling will be centred in the dense swamp areas previously untouched and impossible to exploit without extensive development of motor and narrow-gauge haulways provided for in the Five Year Plan.

Of the 1950 goal for timber production, 5 million cubic metres is set for annual production under the direction of the Timber Ministry of the B.S.S.R. An undisclosed amount will be produced under the auspices of local and co-operative industry. Although no full details are at present available, nevertheless, a few comparisons with pre-war production are possible. For example, in 1928 the production of plywood in Byelorussia amounted to 59,000 cubic metres, and in 1940 to 254,000 cubic metres (36.2 per cent. of the plywood output of the Soviet Union). In 1950 the plywood output of republican, local, and co-operative industry is scheduled to be 118,500 cubic metres. No pre-war figures are available for sawn lumber output, except for 1928, when 636,060 cubic metres were produced. The planned output of sawn lumber for 1950 is 1,800,000 cubic metres, nearly three times the 1928 amount.

[439] As for the export of timber, no figures are available, but it is known that Byelorussian timber has been and still is an important source of mine props for the Donets coal mines in the Ukrainian S.S.R.
313 185 However, in view of the tremendous shelter rehabilitation programme in devastated Byelorussia, it does not seem likely that there will be much surplus timber available. Of 400,000 collective farm houses scheduled for restoration, only 60,000 are to be built of brick. An equal, if not larger, number of public buildings were destroyed on collective farms;

313 and only 22,700 are to be rebuilt of brick. The remainder, totalling
185 over a million buildings of all kinds in the rural areas alone will be rebuilt with timber. Urban shelter restoration will also require large amounts of lumber. (In 1946 the "Komintern" woodworking combinat in Bobruisk had milled 36,892 cubic metres of lumber, by October 27, of which 27,000 cubic metres was earmarked for restoration work in Minsk.)

471 Another indication of the current importance attached to the timber
313 industry is the fact that the largest investments in the 1946 state budget for the B.S.S.R. were the 120,514,000 roubles allocated to the timber industry. This represents 28 per cent. of the total capital investments made in the Byelorussian budget for 1946.

Paper and Match Production

289 In 1937 paper production in the B.S.S.R. reached 57,100 tons, or 6.87 per cent. of the total paper production of the Soviet Union, which was 831,600 tons. B.S.S.R. production of paper in 1932 was 28,700 tons, or 6.09 per cent. of the total.

372 Pre-war match production in the B.S.S.R. was 28.9 per cent. of
433 total Soviet Union output. Output in the B.S.S.R. in 1950 is to be 1,550 million boxes, and depends on the restoration of the pre-war factories. One of the largest match and plywood factories in the U.S.S.R. before the war, was the plant at Borisov, which the Germans systematically looted and destroyed. Before the war this factory had eight automatic machines for the production of wood matches, which were then widely exported, some being shipped to the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. Plywood, box shook, and other wood products were also produced. During the war four of the machines were removed to Germany, and the remainder were demolished when the Germans retreated. In June 1946, when the UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia observed this factory, it had one unit assembled from salvaged spare parts; and this unit was producing at the rate of 300,000 pocket-boxes of matches daily. Many processes were being operated by hand.

The plant originally consisted of several buildings, most of which are still either in complete ruins or have only the walls standing, without windows or roofs. Concrete floor foundations remain, with a few imbedded iron bars to which pre-war machinery was bolted. Present operations are carried out in the single building which has been restored, and is covered with a new roof. At present, one-third of the match factory space, and one-fifth of the total floor space is in operation. Present plans call for an output of 600 million boxes a year by 1950, or 1,397,000 boxes a day. Before anything like this output can be achieved, several more buildings must be restored, and additional machinery must be procured. Moreover, the demolished
372 electric power plant adjacent to the factory must also be restored to pre-war capacity. The Mission reported, however, that as at most other factories, building restoration was almost entirely a hand process;

372 only one concrete mixer was observed. Before the war, the Borisov match factory had 5,000 workers; in June 1946, the number was only 700.

Peat

316 For most countries the output of peat may not be a significant index of industrialization. In Byelorussia, however, it has been and remains one of the primary indications. For example, 91 per cent. of the steam power plants erected during the first Five Year Plan were based on peat as a fuel. In addition to this use, large quantities of peat are to be used as fertilizer in the next five years.

135 At January 1, 1934, peat deposits in Byelorussia were estimated at 2,670 million tons, compared with 95,426 million tons in the entire Soviet Union. (Later estimates for the U.S.S.R. give the figure of 150,000 million tons, 48.5 per cent. of total world reserves.)

316 In 1932 the output of peat in the B.S.S.R. amounted to 834,000
433 tons (6.06 per cent. of Soviet Union output). Production in 1937 rose to 2,445,300 tons, and for 1940 was estimated at 3,260,000 tons. The Five Year Plan fixes the B.S.S.R.'s output of peat in 1950 at 4,162,000 tons, and provides that peat workings with an aggregate annual capacity of 1.6 million tons shall be put into operation, and peat briquette plants built with an annual capacity of 130,000 tons.

Textiles and Clothing

288 The textile industry of Byelorussia is centred in the Vitebsk and
433 Mogilev areas, which saw extensive development under the pre-war Five
•185 Year Plans. No major change in the distribution is foreseen in the next five years, at the end of which Vitebsk and Polotsk oblasts, together with parts of Mogilev and Molodechno oblasts, are scheduled to contribute 83 per cent. of the Byelorussian textile output. Some of the production targets for 1950 are as follows:

Cotton cloth	2 million metres
Linen cloth	3 " "
Woollen cloth	1,660,000 metres
Carpet	1,254,000 metres
Plush	290,000 metres

The output of woollens, carpet, and plush is to be obtained from new factories scheduled for construction in Vitebsk, Minsk, and Grodno. Linen will be produced in restored factories; and it should be pointed out that the figure of three million metres is additional to a considerable output of linen cloth expected in 1950 from the restored linen combinat in Orsha, an enterprise under the management of the U.S.S.R. Textile Ministry. (In pre-war years, this linen mill, which was built during the first Five Year Plan), had a capacity of 14 million metres of cloth per year.)

288 The output of cotton cloth in the B.S.S.R. will also come from
433 restored mills. The two million metre target is considerably below
185 the 1937 output of 9.3 million metres (0.27 per cent. of total Soviet production), and even below the 1932 rate of 4 million metres, or 0.15 per cent. of the Soviet Union total.

295 Finished clothing, shoes, and hosiery in the B.S.S.R. are produced
433 under the Byelorussian Ministry of Light Industry; and the output in
185 1950 is expected to be as follows:

Shoes	7 million pairs
Hosiery	13.5 " "
Knitted underwear	3,510,000 units
Knitted clothes	1,680,000 "

The shoe output will come mainly from large restored factories in Minsk, Vitebsk, Gomel, and other cities. The above figure does not include output under co-operative and local industry; the total shoe production in Byelorussia in 1950 being set at 9,430,000 pairs, as compared with 8,075,000 pairs in 1937, (4.41 per cent. of total Soviet production) and 3,462,000 pairs in 1932, (3.98 per cent. of the Soviet Union output).

The lower production targets for cotton cloth and hosiery may be associated with the fact that the U.S.S.R. now has available new sources of textiles and clothing, notably at Lvov, Kaipola, Riga, Narva, Tallin, and other Baltic cities. Moreover, under the national Five Year Plan for the U.S.S.R., the cotton textile industry of Central Asia will be expended near the sources of raw cotton, and proportionately less cotton will have to be shipped to processing mills in European areas of the Soviet Union.

Electric Power Stations

377 In 1937 the electric power stations of the B.S.S.R. had a capacity of 88,600 kilowatts and produced 430.4 million kilowatt hours of electric energy. Considerable progress had been made in electrification since 1932, when the B.S.S.R.'s stations had a total capacity of 50,000 kilowatts and produced 176.7 million kilowatt hours. For the entire Soviet Union, the output of electric energy in 1937 was 36,400 million kilowatt hours, as compared with only 13,540 million in 1932.

377 During the war the electric power stations of Byelorussia were
727 almost completely destroyed by the Germans. Since liberation they have been restored to only a limited extent, despite assistance from UNRRA, which, as part of the industrial rehabilitation programme, has furnished a number of power stations complete. In June 1946, when UNRRA Mission members visited Borisov, Orsha, Vitebsk, and Polotsk, facilities were estimated to be as follows.

TABLE XI

377 727 Electric Power Facilities in Four Byelorussian Cities, Pre-War and June 1946

City	Population June 1946	Pre-war capacity of electric stations (kilowatts)	June 1946 as per-cent. of pre-war
Borisov	43,000	4,500	22
Orsha	34,000	30,000	10
Vitebsk	62,000[1]	12,000	6
Polotsk	24,000	2,500	2

1 1939 population: 167,424.

Source: UNRRA Mission to Byelorussia, Minsk.

In these cities, all electricity available was being consumed by industry and public institutions, while dwellings were virtually without light. At Orsha, the restored facilities could have furnished light to dwellings as well, provided there had been wiring, switches, and bulbs.

The situation in rural areas is even worse. Before the war many collective farms had their own small electric power stations, all of which were plundered or destroyed by the Germans. The Surazh raion had six small farm stations with a total capacity of 800 kilowatts before the war; but even as late as June 1946 it had nothing, because although a new station was under construction at Surazh, there was no equipment for it.

The present shortage of electric power is a serious obstacle hampering industrial recovery. In this respect, UNRRA is making a considerable contribution. As at October 1, 1946, 30 power units with a total capacity of 8,400 kilowatts had been shipped to the B.S.S.R., and 35 additional units representing electric generating capacity of 10,400 kilowatts were still to be delivered.

185 377 The Five Year Plan calls for the output of 650 million kilowatt hours of energy in 1950. To achieve this, electric power stations with a capacity of 243,000 kilowatts are to be rebuilt and put into operation. Small hydro-electric stations with a total capacity of 16,000 kilowatts are to be built, and the municipal power stations at Gomel, Mozyr, Grodno, and other towns restored.

For the development of the economy of the Republic, there are to be put into operation electric power stations under the Republic's jurisdiction with a total capacity of 47,000 kilowatts, including hydro-electric stations with 10,000 kilowatt capacity.

Housing Reconstruction

727 The cities of Byelorussia were universally laid waste by the Germans, and even today they are still in ruins with great empty spaces and blocks of gutted buildings. Rebuilding is proceeding slowly.

362 •185 According to official estimates, 74 per cent. of the housing space in cities and raion centres of the B.S.S.R. was destroyed during the war. The Five Year Plan calls for the restoration of 4,200,000 square metres of urban housing during the next five years, of which 1.5 million square metres are to be constructed by individual home builders assisted by state loans. During the two years between liberation and September 1946, a total of 1.2 million square metres of housing had been restored in cities and raion centres; but this was the easiest part of the work, since it involved mostly the repair of those buildings which still had some walls standing. Housing restoration will have to move at a faster rate than 600,000 square metres a year to reach the 4.2 million square metres goal by 1950, when there is to be an estimated 8.2 million square metres of urban housing space in Byelorussia.

In the restoration plans, provision is made to erect three prefabricated house factories with a combined annual output capacity of 600,000 square metres of housing by 1950.

The long-term housing plan is to provide 9 square metres per person, according to the Mayor of Minsk. However, in October 1946 facilities were much below that standard, and it seemed doubtful to the UNRRA Mission whether the figure would be reached by 1950.

The present per capita housing space available is not known. But in cities like Comel, UNRRA Mission observers have been given estimates that available houses are occupied at double to triple their pre-war capacity.

The only available figures on pre-war housing are those for the first Five Year Plan period. These apply to what were then classed as "okrug", or regional cities, of which there were in 1927, eleven with a combined population of approximately 540,000. In 1927-28 they had a total of 3,093,000 square metres of housing space, occupied at the rate of 5.5 square metres per person. The first Five Year Plan called for expanding the housing space in "okrug" cities to a total of 4,263,000 square metres, occupied at the rate of 6.69 square metres per person.

The target of 8.2 million square metres of urban housing space by 1950 is about double the 1932 figure. This amount, including housing in some 170 raion (district) centres, is distributed among what are classed as "oblast" cities (these governed directly by the oblast or regional soviet as well as by the local city soviet), which were 18 in number in 1945. Among this number are all those cities classed as "okrug" cities in 1926, plus seven cities in the western oblasts; Baranovichi, Brest, Vileika, Grodno, Lida, Molodechno, and Pinsk.

362 These seven cities were not included in the 1939 census, when the total
•185 urban population of Byelorussia was determined as nearly 1.4 million persons. Assuming that the urban centres of Byelorussia merely recover their pre-war population, and if the urban residents of western Byelorussia be included, the per capita urban housing space available in 1950 will certainly be much less than 9 square metres, since at that rate 8.2 million square metres could supply only about 900,000 occupants. The actual per person rate of urban housing space in 1950 is more likely to be near the 1932-33 rate if planned targets of reconstruction are achieved.

727 In the rural areas of the B.S.S.R., shelter demolition amounted to 400,000 dwellings of collective farmers, and an indeterminate number of individual peasant homes. In the western oblasts, as has already been noted, the great majority of farmers are not yet in collectives. In a single oblast, Molodechno, 16,000 peasant farms were laid waste. In Grodno oblast, where 117,000 civilians were slain by the Germans, demolition of homes was on a equal, if not greater scale. Thousands of individual peasant homes were also destroyed in other oblasts. A reported total of 1.2 million buildings of all kinds, houses, barns, sheds, offices, were destroyed in the rural areas. As at October 1946, 235,000 dwellings had been restored in the villages, providing shelter for 1.5 million people who were then able to move out of temporary shelters, mostly dugouts and caves. On the whole, progress in the restoration of shelter seems to be more rapid in the villages than in the cities.

Supplementary Aid from the U.S.S.R.

727 On December 31, 1946, the Byelorussian Council of Ministers pub-
362 lished in "Sovietskaya Byelorussia" a statement that at its request the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. had adopted a decree providing for assistance in the restoration of raions of the B.S.S.R. which had especially suffered from the occupation.

Under the terms of the decree, 27 million roubles have been granted by the U.S.S.R. for expenditure on 2,000 dwelling houses to be constructed in the areas of Byelorussia most devastated by the war. Built at state expense, these houses are to provide shelter for the most needy: families of war invalids, and of fighters (both army and partisan) killed in the war. The total fund is allocated for distribution among 38 districts or raions which are all situated in the eastern and central oblasts of the Republic. Vitebsk, Polotsk, Gomel, Mogilev, Minsk, Bobruisk, and Polessia oblasts are to benefit by the grant.